The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news summary and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WE PLEDGE—
1 BILLION DOLLARS
IN
WAR SAVINGS BONDS
FOR VICTORY

WHOLE NO. 1652 WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1942 GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer VOL. 32, NO. 49

FACING *the* FACTS

With PHILIP PEARL

Two significant events, occurring almost simultaneously, merit more than casual consideration by anyone interested in the immediate and future welfare of our country.

The first was the demise of the WPA, created during the depths of the depression to provide artificial jobs for millions of workers who were thrown out of their jobs by the fearful dislocation of industry.

The second was President Roosevelt's new Executive Order, centralizing control over all manpower and creating the War Manpower Commission under the direction of Paul V. McNutt.

We can shed no tears over the WPA even though it performed a highly necessary function during its lifetime in sustaining large numbers of American citizens who were made idle through no fault of their own.

Today, with the nation at war and desperately in need of an ever increasing production of munitions, it is a sin to waste manpower on experimental projects.

On the contrary, signs multiply that there is a developing shortage of manpower as more and more of our able-bodied young men are inducted into the armed forces. That is why President Roosevelt has established the new manpower setup—to conserve available manpower.

Voluntary Methods Work

Never before in the history of our country has the Government assumed such power over the lives and destinies of its citizens as are now lodged in the Manpower Commission.

It can decide through the Selective Service System—now a part of the unified setup—whether a man should be inducted into the armed service or whether he shall be permitted to continue at his present occupation.

As yet the commission has no power to "freeze" workers to their jobs. But it can recommend that such action be undertaken on a voluntary basis.

The commission has no control over wages, but it can recommend wage adjustments in order to keep manpower available for specific industries suffering from an exodus of workers to better-paid jobs elsewhere.

The success of the new manpower setup depends upon wise administration and sincere devotion to democratic processes. Experience in this war thus far has proven the value and efficiency of voluntary methods. If the commission adheres to the principles of democracy and voluntarism, we predict it will receive the wholehearted support of American workers and the labor organizations that represent them. But if, instead, the commission seeks shortcuts to its objectives by compulsory methods, it will undoubtedly encounter trouble.

We feel confident that Mr. McNutt will follow the wise course and seek the full cooperation of organized labor to make his program effective because he has consistently done so in the past.

Mobilization In Peacetime

From a long-range view, the nation's present manpower plight makes us wonder how things ever came to such a pass that the Government had to create the WPA.

The present mobilization of manpower for war raises the question why a more restrained but just as widespread effort was never launched to produce for peace.

In our civilization so bankrupt, is our system of Government so barren, that only war can stimulate us to action? This war in which we are now engaged is indeed a desperate war for survival, but isn't the always continuing war against hunger and poverty just as truly a war for survival?

Labor is opening its eyes to these problems and it's about time that industry and Government likewise begin to show some comprehension of the need for an all-out attack on our economic problems.

The policy of isolationism is just as blind and cruel in peace-time as it is in war.

No longer can a community or industry isolate itself against the sufferings of humanity and ignore conditions beyond its own immediate sphere.

Never again must there be a WPA.

When this war is over, America must not permit a return to hunger, suffering and widespread unemployment.

There are things to be done—in peace as in war. There are things the American people need, that industry can produce, that the masses of our citizens must be able to buy out of their earnings.

The sacrifices made necessary by this war will be worthwhile only if victory brings recognition of the need for a peace production program which will outdo even our present war program.

AFL-CIO Sign Tentative "Truce," But Kaiser Raid Raises Obstacle

Washington, D. C.—The AFL and CIO Peace Committees signed a "truce" on Dec. 2 which widely hailed as an armistice to hostilities between affiliates of the two organizations.

However, the agreement encountered an immediate obstacle caused by the failure of the CIO Shipbuilding Workers Union to call off an attempted raid on the Kaiser shipyards on the West Coast which are under contract to AFL unions.

At the request of President Roosevelt, Economic Stabilization Director James F. Byrnes intervened in the Kaiser dispute in an effort to bring about a settlement but no immediate progress was forthcoming.

The Peace Committees representing the AFL and CIO entered into their over-all agreement after only two days of deliberations in a small conference room at the Willard Hotel.

The conferees described their action as a most important first step toward actual amalgamation of the AFL and CIO. They also emphasized that it will be of tremendous benefit to the war production program, since the agreement will prevent delays due to union rivalry.

Having accomplished this initial and significant truce, the peace conferences recessed until later this month when negotiations to bring about a "permanent merger of the AFL and CIO into a united labor movement will be resumed.

The truce, which will have to be ratified by the Executive Councils of the AFL and CIO, provides for the appointment of a joint committee of AFL and CIO representatives in the field to settle and decide any jurisdictional differences arising between an AFL and a CIO union in the same field. If this committee fails to agree on its decisions, it shall select an impartial arbiter to resolve the dispute. If the committee cannot agree on an arbiter within two days, the President of the United States shall be requested to name one.

It is recommend that this understanding shall remain in force until labor unity is effected," the announcement by the AFL and CIO Peace Committees stated.

The truce was proposed by the AFL Committee, composed of Vice Presidents Harry C. Bates, Daniel J. Tobin and William L. Hutcheson.

Their recommendation was made pursuant to the unanimous action of the recent AFL convention in Toronto which called for an immediate armistice with the CIO to end raiding. The convention declaration said:

"We are convinced if these (peace) negotiations are to be successful, bitterness of feeling must be eliminated and hostilities come to an end. Your committee believes that it would be difficult indeed for the unity committee to make satisfactory progress if in the meantime hostile raiding tactics continue. We, therefore, urgently recommend that this convention approve of an immediate armistice as an essential evidence of good faith and sincerity."

In very similar language, the agreement entered into between the AFL and CIO Peace Committees declared:

"We are convinced that if peace negotiations are to be successful and unity achieved, cooperation among our respective members and organizations must be encouraged and promoted. It is our belief that it would be extremely difficult to make satisfactory progress toward unity through these negotiations if, in the meantime, there is absence of practical cooperation between the two organizations. We agree to the establishment of a joint AFL-CIO Committee to hear and decide any disputed jurisdictional differences that may arise between the two above-named organizations."

At a press conference following announcement of the truce, AFL Chairman Bates said complaints could be filed with the new Jurisdiction Committee only by national and international unions affected. The committee will not consider disputes between two AFL unions or between two CIO unions, he added.

Members of the new Jurisdiction Committee will be named by the Executive Councils of the AFL and CIO when they meet to ratify the pact.

Labor To Redouble Victory Drive During Next Year, Green Pledges; Army And Navy Hail Workers' Aid

Gen. McNarney Lauds AFL Workers

Washington, D. C.—Following is the glowing tribute paid to AFL workers on the Dec. 6 "Labor For Victory" program by Lieut. Gen. Joseph T. McNarney, Deputy Chief of Staff of the U. S. Army:

"During our first year—our year of preparation—American war factories have poured forth a harvest of munitions that has never been equalled in history.

"Labor, management and the armed forces have put their shoulders to the wheel and will keep them there for the duration. All of us share a responsibility that cannot be divided.

"You of the American Federation of Labor who arranged this 'Labor For Victory' program are busy supplying us with the tools of your trade. It is our job to carve the victory with them. Let me tell you what some of the planes built by A. F. of L. workers are doing in battle.

"Flying Fortresses not only dropped tons of bombs but brought down more than half of the 167 enemy planes destroyed or probably destroyed by the Army Air Forces between Nov. 1 and Nov. 23. One Flying Fortress bagged seven Nazi planes in 12 minutes.

"Members of the American Federation of Labor are building Flying Fortresses at the Boeing factory.

"Not long ago, five B-24 Liberators bombed the power station and shaft head of a mine at Kaiping, China, which has supplied Japan with 75 per cent of her coking coal. The resultant flooding of that mine may have put it out of commission an entire year.

"Members of the American Federation of Labor are building B-24 Liberators at the Consolidated factory.

"The twin-engined P-38 Lightning, mounting .50-caliber machine guns and a cannon, is one of our newer fighting planes. It does better than 400 miles an hour and its cannon can blast a bomber in the air or a tank on the ground from a mile away. In action in Africa, the Southwest Pacific, and the Aleutians, it has lived up to its name.

"On Nov. 25, Lightnings destroyed 14 enemy planes over Tunisia and not one of their own was lost.

"Members of the American Federation of Labor are building Lightnings at the Lockheed factory."

Endless Stream of Munitions Urged By Green To Assist Armed Forces

Washington, D. C.—American workers will redouble their production efforts in the coming months to speed victory by the end of 1943, AFL President William Green pledged in a "Labor For Victory" broadcast marking the first anniversary of Pearl Harbor.

Joining with Mr. Green on the same program, outstanding spokesmen for the U. S. Army and the U. S. Navy gave high praise to the achievements of AFL workers in producing vital war materials. They were Lieut. Gen. Joseph T. McNarney, Deputy Chief of Staff of the Army, and Rear Admiral E. W. Mills, of the Navy's Bureau of Ships.

"All America flames with the offensive spirit," Gen. McNarney said. "Our watchword is attack."

He gave special citations to AFL workers who are making the Flying Fortresses, Liberators and P-38 Lightning planes, which have distinguished themselves in battles against the enemy.

Admiral Mills revealed that workers are now building battleships in three years that used to take five years to complete, while destroyers are being built in six months, one-third the former time.

Mr. Green said:

"Under the test of actual combat our men and our machines have met the enemy and proved themselves superior.

"We are proud of the courage and fighting spirit of our boys in uniform. We are proud of the matchless quality of our planes, tanks, ships, guns and other war equipment. We must also be proud of our soldiers of production who make them—the men and women in overalls who are giving their strength, their skill and their productive genius to provide our armed forces in record time with the finest and sturdiest fighting equipment the world has ever seen.

"The tributes paid here today to the accomplishments of American workers in support of the war effort by outstanding spokesmen for the United States Army and Navy and the United States Navy are not lightly given. They are rather official recognition of a record of service of labor second to none during any previous period in our nation's history. Let me outline a few of labor's principal war achievements:

"First, we have quadrupled war production in less than a year's time. That is the official report of War Production Director Donald M. Nelson.

"Second, we have relinquished the right to strike for the duration and have maintained the finest record of continuous, uninterrupted production ever achieved in any nation's history.

"Third, we have willingly worked longer hours and have stepped up the rate of production per man to an amazing extent.

"Fourth, we have accepted such sacrifices as wage stabilization without complaint and have voluntarily sought out many other important ways of helping and cooperating with the Government.

"Fifth, and most important, we have contributed our own personal advantage to the national welfare and have given priority to only one supreme objective—winning this war in the shortest possible time.

"But no mere enumeration of broad policies and programs—constructive as they are—can do justice to the vivid examples which today animates the workers of America—workers whose sons and brothers are risking their lives against the enemy alongside citizens from all other walks of life.

"It is because of that unconquerable spirit of the free working men and women of our country that I venture now to predict that they will go on to even greater accomplishments in the coming year.

"I know that I am voicing their hearts and minds when I tell you they are determined to turn out an endless stream of planes, ships, tanks and guns in an all-out effort to crush the enemy before the second anniversary of Pearl Harbor.

"America's workers have now tasted victory! They will not be satisfied until that victory is complete!"

No-Strike Record "Almost Perfect," NWLB Chief Davis Tells Nation

Anti-labor propagandists were given two doses of bad news in official Government statements.

One was the disclosure by the National War Labor Board that organized labor has observed its "no-strike" pledge almost to "perfection."

During October, the board said, man-day losses from stoppages in war production plants was "less than 1 per cent—or the equivalent of about one-day's idleness for each eight years of employment." That's about normal except for January immediately after the holidays.

Chairman William H. Davis of the board paid a glowing tribute to labor's no-strike pledge. He recalled that 10 days after Pearl Harbor labor and management chiefs agreed on a policy of no strikes or lockouts "for the duration."

"Labor has kept its part of this bargain so faithfully that time lost due to strikes has been negligible," Mr. Davis said. "No man who knows labor expected the record to be anything different."

Meanwhile, the Department of Labor released an analysis of strikes during the entire defense program—from the start in June, 1940, to the outbreak of war on December 7, 1941 —and disclosed that losses due to work stoppages were far less than pictured either in official figures or in the propaganda of labor haters.

Government reports showed man-day idleness in defense plants was seven-tenths of 1 per cent of time worked. This percentage is small enough, but the true losses were far less than that, the department admitted.

One reason the figure is inflated is that where plants were engaged only partly in defense production all strike losses were listed under the heading of "defense." This was done, the department said, because of the "difficulty" of segregating the figures.

If all these factors could be put down in cold, hard statistics, they would show that, contrary to the hullabaloo raised by foes of labor, the workers rolled up an amazing "no-strike" record for the entire defense program, the department's report made clear.

Predicts Dewey Will Enlarge New York's Progressive Labor Code

Albany, N. Y.—A new era of progress in social and labor legislation under the new Republican state administration to be headed by Governor-elect Thomas E. Dewey beginning 1943, was predicted by New York State Federation of Labor leaders meeting at the Ten Eyck Hotel here to formulate a 1943 legislative program.

Irving M. Ives, Republican majority leader of the State Assembly, addressing the labor meeting, said there "seemed to be a fear that labor is going to suffer under the next state administration," but that he predicted that the change would mean "a new era of advancement and progress in social and labor legislation."

Thomas J. Lyons, president of the State Federation, referring to what Mr. Ives had said, asserted that he was "confident no reactionary change would come about," and that he also was "confident the Republican party will meet the needs of the working people of the state."

Mr. Ives, who is chairman of the legislative committee on industrial and labor conditions, joined Mr. Lyons in praising Governor Herbert H. Lehman, who has been appointed by President Roosevelt as director of foreign relief and rehabilitation.

Governor Lehman, addressing the meeting briefly, said he was proud of the part he has had in formulating New York State's humane, enlightened, progressive labor code.

President Abolishes WPA

Washington, D. C.—The Work Projects Administration was ordered abolished in the face of rising war employment.

President Roosevelt told Major Gen. Philip B. Fleming, Federal Works Administrator, to close out all projects operating on "many" states by Feb. 1 and in other states "as soon thereafter as feasible."

He noted that a "large amount" of the appropriation for this fiscal year could be economized and that there would be no need to provide WPA funds in the budget for the next fiscal year.

Officials of the Federal Works Agency said that an exact time table for State-by-State liquidation of the WPA had not been worked out. It was indicated, however, that it might take longest to close the New York State WPA, which still has 32,561 persons on its rolls, the largest number of any state, with the New York City total at 25,776, the largest of any city.

The work relief agency received in seven years appropriations of $10,468,276,000 and gave employment to 8,500,000 persons who had about $30,000,000 dependents.

Methodist Federation Salutes Labor As Decisive Factor For Victory

Working men and women—the members of organized labor—are the backbone of the war efforts in all of the United Nations. They are under no illusions concerning the peril menacing freedom and will be the decisive factor in destroying the enemy. When the war is won, organized labor will be the one of the powers of the post-war world.

That is a summary of a statement just issued by the Methodist Federation for Social Service, calling for a stronger voice for labor in the conduct of the war and a place at the conference table when the peace is being written.

The Federation recites the sacrifices and achievements of the workers:

Millions of union members are in the armed forces of the United Nations.

Labor has given up its right to strike and has kept its pledge so faithfully that time lost from strikes since Pearl Harbor equals only one day for every thousand man-days worked.

Trade unionists have contributed a substantial part of their wages to War Stamps and Bonds and to various relief agencies, have served as air raid wardens and fire watchers, and have donated their blood to Red Cross banks.

Labor's prediction record has been "magnificent," and would have been better still if it had followed management been equally cooperative.

"Monopolistic interests," the Federation declares, "in their drive for war profits, have blocked and are still blocking, a maximum war effort."

Many problems of production could be solved were labor given representation on government agencies dealing with the question, the church group said.

Counterfeit Money Menace Stressed By Chief of U. S. Secret Service

Washington, D. C.—With the nation fighting for its existence, the counterfeiter has become not merely a public enemy, but a fifth columnist if not an outright traitor, Frank J. Wilson, Chief of the United States Secret Service, warned.

"Counterfeit money is an instrument of war as surely as tanks, planes, guns, and bombs. The history of warfare shows that counterfeiting has again and again been used to support military operations, and it is not unlikely that counterfeit money may be used in this country by enemies of the United States," Chief Wilson said.

"The Secret Service program of crime prevention through education can be the means for thwarting such activities and for foiling the fiendish variety of boodlum in his assault on the integrity of the nation's currency."

During the period 1932 to 1936 the American people lost an average of $171,000 each year as victims of passed counterfeit money. Most of these losses resulted from a lack of knowledge about the appearance of money, and the ease with which it may be imitated.

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now become a permanent program of crime prevention through education.

"Education can prevent the crime of counterfeiting," Chief Wilson said. "With the cooperation of the American public the Secret Service will defeat any fifth column bad money plot. By learning to detect counterfeit money our citizens will help themselves and their country, and strike a blow at the enemies of the United States."

(Note to Editors—We are mailing you soon a pamphlet prepared by the United States Secret Service for the purpose of acquainting your readers with the proper steps by which to detect counterfeit money.)

NEGRO WAR HERO NOW AFL WORKER

Los Angeles.—Obie Bartlett, a Negro soldier wounded at Pearl Harbor, has recovered after four months in an Army hospital and is now an AFL worker in the plate shop of the California Shipbuilding Corp. at nearby Wilmington.

"I sure am thankful," Bartlett says, "that I can at least help to build the ships to carry the guns and ammunition to my buddies in the Army.

"I like to feel that my 'stinger' (a welding instrument) is just as powerful as the rifle I left behind me."

Pearl Harbor Navy Yard Workers Praised As Heroes By Admirals

Pearl Harbor, H. I.—Civilian workers of the Pearl Harbor Navy Yard were praised by the commanding admirals as heroes who helped to strengthen American positions in the Pacific.

"During the past year civilian workers have had a double job—to salvage and repair the warships lost in the Japanese sneak attack and to repair battle damage received by our warships in the Pacific engagements. They performed nobly and valiantly," Rear Admiral D. W. Bagley, commandant of the Hawaiian Naval District, and Rear Admiral William R. Furlong, commandant of the navy yard.

"Ships of the Navy this December 7 means more than recalling the attack of a year ago. It means that one of our most difficult 12 months in history—the period in which our men had to stem the tide and restore our damaged ships to the battle line—is a thing of the past," said Admiral Bagley.

"Now practically all the ships that were damaged during the Japanese attack on the islands are with the fleet and will carry their message of destruction and the power and might of an aroused nation to our enemies in the Pacific."

Shishkin Condemns As Falsehood Propaganda To End 40-Hour Week

New York City.—Boris Shishkin, American Federation of Labor economist, declared here that the question "Should the 40-hour week be suspended?" The question is "Should wages be cut?"

In a speech full of all elaborate camouflage of verbiage so carefully calculated to confuse, the proposal "to suspend the 40-hour week" stands as a wage-cutting proposition, pure and simple."

Declaring the "elimination of overtime will not help war production," Mr. Shishkin enlinched his argument with the statement that lengthening of hours and the elimination of overtime pay is not favored by either management or Army and Navy production engineers, but on the contrary is urged by those who are advocates of job freezing and wage freezing with the inevitable "compulsory control of lives and wills of all American workers."

ELECTRICAL WORKERS WIN DECISION AGAINST CIO

Washington, D. C.—The National Labor Relations Board announced it had dismissed a Congress of Industrial Organizations protest and had certified the A. F. of L. Federation of Labor International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers as collective bargaining agent for employes of the Cornell-Dubilier Corporation at South Plainfield, N. J.

The CIO had protested the conduct of an election at the plant July 23 in which the A.F.L. union received 605 votes and the CIO 403, with 14 voting for no union.

"We find that the evidence does not support the allegations and that there is nothing in the conduct of the company or of their representatives which would warrant us in setting aside the election," the NLRB ruling said.

WAR WORKERS ENTITLED TO CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

Washington, D. C.—Workers in war industries have earned a day off and should be permitted to enjoy Christmas at home, War Production Chief Donald M. Nelson declared.

"On the birthday of the Prince of Peace we can and should rest from the production of the weapons of war," he said. "More than ever before in our lives we need this year to pause on Christmas Day and think deeply and humbly about the faith by which we live.

"After the holiday, we must drive ahead with renewed energy for the increased production plan of 1943."

Most workers sacrificed other holidays this year to speed up production, Nelson declared.

AL MAGNUSON ELECTED TO LABOR PRESS BOARD

Springfield, Ill.—R. E. Woodmansee, secretary-treasurer of the International Labor Press, announced the result of a referendum vote on ninth vice-president of the organization, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Harvey Garman of Los Angeles.

Al Magnuson, editor and manager of the Labor Advocate, Denver, Colo., polled a majority of the votes.